

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-referenced application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A reinforcement grid for bituminous layers, ~~in particular for bitumen-containing road surfaces~~, comprising:

intersecting strands (1,2; 1',2'; 1'',2'') made of a synthetic material, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the strands (1,2; 1',2'; 1'',2'') made of a synthetic material have a ductile yield between 3% and 8%.

2. (Currently amended) The reinforcement grid as recited in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ductile yield of the strands (1,2; 1',2'; 1'',2'') is between 5% and 6%.

3. (Currently amended) The reinforcement grid as recited in Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the force absorbed by the strands (1,2; 1',2'; 1'',2'') increases into the range of the ductile yield[[,]] ~~essentially~~ in proportion to the value of the strain of the strands (1,2; 1',2'; 1'',2'').

4. (Currently amended) The reinforcement grid as recited in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the strands (1,2; 1',2'; 1'',2'') are made of a high-strength polyvinyl alcohol (PVA).

5. (Currently amended) The reinforcement grid as recited in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the strands (1,2; 1',2'; 1'',2'') are each made of at least one high-strength yarn.
6. (Currently amended) The reinforcement grid as recited in Claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the yarns are woven together.
7. (Currently amended) The reinforcement grid as recited in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein two intersecting strands (1',2') are bound together by binding threads.
8. (Currently amended) The reinforcement grid as recited in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, ~~characterized in that it is coated with~~ further comprising an adhesive coating having an affinity for bitumen.
9. (Currently amended) The reinforcement grid as recited in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising ~~it is bound to a backing layer, [[,]] in particular a nonwoven backing 4 impregnated with bitumen.~~
10. (New) The reinforcement grid according to Claim 9, wherein said backing layer is a nonwoven backing layer impregnated with bitumen.

11. (New) A reinforcement grid for a bituminous layer, comprising:

at least two intersecting strands including a synthetic material, wherein said at least two intersecting strands have a ductile yield that corresponds to a ductile yield of the bituminous layer.
12. (New) The reinforcement grid as recited in Claim 11, wherein an absorbed stress value of said at least two intersecting strands for a given cross section is approximately proportional to a value of strain in said strands.
13. (New) The reinforcement grid as recited in Claim 11, wherein the ductile yield of said at least two intersecting strands is approximately equal to the ductile yield of the bituminous layer.
14. (New) The reinforcement grid as recited in Claim 11, wherein said ductile yield of the at least two intersecting strands is between approximately 3% and approximately 8%.
15. (New) The reinforcement grid as recited in Claim 14, wherein said ductile yield of the at least two intersecting strands is between approximately 5% and approximately 6%.
16. (New) The reinforcement grid as recited in Claim 11, wherein each of said at least two intersecting strands includes at least one high strength yarn.

17. (New) The reinforcement grid as recited in Claim 11, wherein said at least two intersecting strands are bound together by binding threads.
18. (New) The reinforcement grid as recited in Claim 11, further comprising an adhesive coating having an affinity for bitumen.
19. (New) A method for reinforcing a bituminous layer, comprising:
intersecting at least two strands within said bituminous layer, wherein said at least two strands include a synthetic material and wherein said at least two strands have a ductile yield that corresponds to a ductile yield of the bituminous layer.
20. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein said ductile yield of the at least two strands is approximately equal to the ductile yield of the bituminous layer.
21. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein said ductile yield is between approximately 3% and approximately 8%.
22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said ductile yield of the at least two strands is between approximately 5% and approximately 6%.
23. (New) The method of claim 19, further comprising weaving together said at least two strands.

24. (New) The method of claim 19, further comprising binding together said at least two strands with binding threads.
25. (New) The method of claim 19, further comprising coating said at least two strands with an adhesive coating having an affinity for bitumen.